

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 SP-02 PM-03 L-01 OES-02 ACDA-10 OMB-01
TRSE-00 EB-04 EUR-08 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-01 IO-06
/072 W

-----044575 022105Z /72-65

R 021408Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8670
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T KUWAIT 4306

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, KU
SUBJECT: KUWAIT-SAUDI OFFSHORE BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS

REF: KUWAIT 2041 (NOTAL)

1. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSABOR'S QUERY AUGUST 2, OIL MINISTER KAZIMI SAID THAT NO PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE WITH SAUDI ARABIA ON DEMARCATING THE OFFSHORE BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. KUWAIT WAS INTERESTED IN A SETTLEMENT, KAZIMI SAID, BECAUSE IT WANTED TO DRILL IN THE GAS-RICH DORRA FIELD. THIS POTENTIALLY LARGE SOURCE COULD PROVIDE NON-ASSOCIATED GAS FOR LPG EXPORT. THE STUMBLING BLOCK, KAZIMI SAID, WAS THAT KUWAIT WANTED TO DRAW A LINE BASED ON INCLUSION OF FAYLAKAH ISLAND, WHICH WOULD MEAN THAT THE WHOLE OF THE DORRA FIELD WOULD BE INCLUDED IN KUWAITI TERRITORIAL

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WATERS. SAUDI ARABIA ON THE OTHER HAND WANTED A LINE OMITTING FAYLAKAH, WHICH WOULD PUT HALF OF THE DORRA FIELD WITHIN THE NEUTRAL ZONE. KUWAIT WANTED THE WHOLE FIELD AND IT WAS CLEAR THAT UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW ITS CASE WAS STRONG AND THAT KUWAIT WOULD WIN IF IT WENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE. HOWEVER, KAZIMI SAID, GIVEN THE TRADITIONAL CLOSE TIES

BETWEEN THE RULING FAMILIES IN KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA, THE KUWAITI RULING FAMILY DID NOT WANT TO GO TO THE ICJ.

2. COMMENT: MINISTER'S REMARKS LEFT US WITH IMPRESSION THAT SO LONG AS THIS MATTER IS AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL IT IS UNLIKELY TO BE RESOLVED. NEGOTIATIONS AT A HIGHER LEVEL, HOWEVER, MIGHT LEAD SOMEWHERE.
MAESTRONE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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